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‘SICK AND DEPRAVED’

Terror strikes at the heart of Britain’s Democracy

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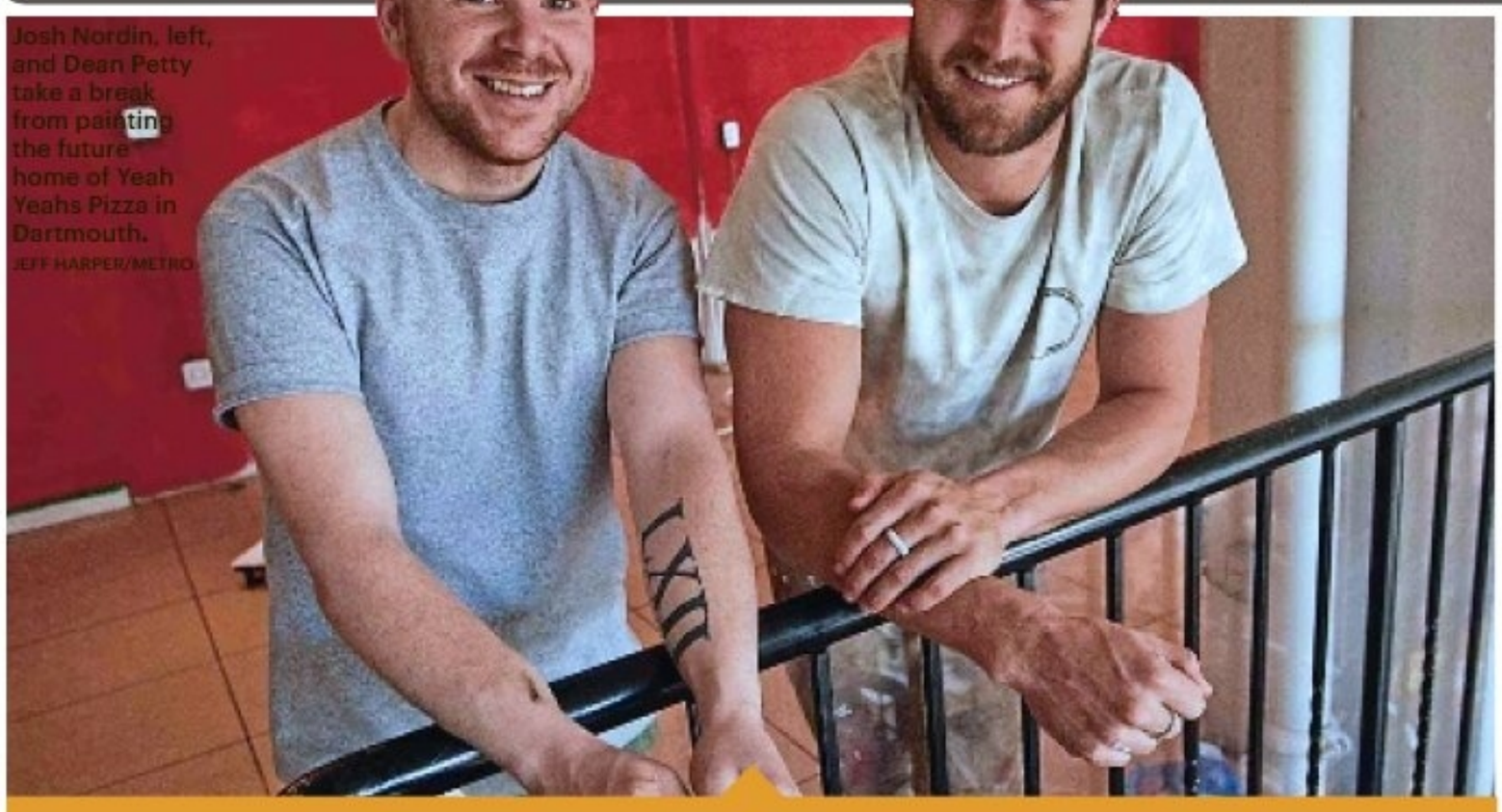
Halifax metro

Your essential dail… THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2017 High -4°C/Low -11°C Sunny

North Preston reacts to fire: ‘The church is our rock’



metroNEWS



Josh Nordin, left, and Dean Petty take a break from painting the future home of Yeah Yeahs Pizza in Dartmouth.
JEFF HARPER/METRO

SLICE TO MEET YOU

Just two normal Dartmouth guys trying to make the world a better pizza

metroNEWS

Mayor wants to use transit funding for rail

FEDERAL BUDGET

How good funds are for city depends on province: Savage



Zane Woodford
Metro | Halifax

Mayor Mike Savage says Wednesday’s federal budget is “a good thing for municipalities,” but exactly how good it is for Halifax depends largely on the provincial government.

As part of its 2017 federal budget, the government committed $11.2 billion for social housing over the next 11 years and $20.6 billion for public transit projects. Savage, who was in Ottawa for another meeting that happened to coincide with budget day, said he and the other Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) members were happy to see the government follow through on that funding.

But how much money will flow to Halifax is uncertain, especially given its “tricky spot” as “a growing city in a province whose population has been declining.”

“In some things we get a pretty big share, but we don’t know what exactly what it would mean for Halifax, and we also don’t know what appetite the provincial government is going to have to match some of that money and be part of the funding,” Savage said.

On transit, the government said it’s willing to cover up to 40 per cent of the cost of new subways and light rail lines. Savage is hoping it will be flexible with that money and allow Halifax to use it for commuter rail instead.

More on the federal budget, metroNEWS

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Community rallies after fire

NORTH PRESTON

No one was hurt but historic church will need repairs



Jonathan Briggins
For Metro | Halifax

There were "a lot of sad faces" in North Preston after a fire damaged a historic church and community hub on Wednesday, but the fire department says the building is still salvageable.

"The church is to a lot of people, including myself, your everything," said church member Neville Provo, who works across the street at the North Preston Community Centre.

"The church is our rock. Without our church, we're absolutely nothing. There's a lot of people who feel that way and a lot of sad faces today."

Provo was one of the first people at the fire after a meeting at the community centre across the street was interrupted when an employee spotted the blaze.

"I thought it would only be a matter of minutes that it would be burning out of control. Once they arrived and got that water on it, it stopped it quickly," said Provo who was brought up in the church and whose family has attended for generations.

Halifax police say the fire at St. Thomas Baptist Church in North Preston was reported at 9:41 a.m.

No one was hurt, but the rear of the wooden building was left with a gaping, charred hole.

"When crews arrived we had a significant fire in the back of the building. It was in a crawl space, so they did have a little bit of difficulty locating the fire," said Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency division commander Kevin Dean.

"There is significant damage to the church, but as you can see, it's salvageable."

St. Thomas Baptist Church, established in 1856, has undergone multiple renovations and construction. The fire department said the fire was between a false wall, making it difficult to locate.

The fire left water, smoke and fire damage at the back of the church.

It's expected the church congregation will meet at the community centre as it has in the past when the church was being renovated.

"Our people are the church, so no matter wherever we come together, that will be the church for the time being," Provo said.

RCMP Cpl. Jennifer Clarke says foul play is not suspected, but the provincial fire marshal's office has the option of investigating.

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS



Firefighters attend to hot spots after a fire at the Saint Thomas United Baptist church in North Preston on Wednesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

> **We're definitely a resilient bunch of people that love the church and love our people. We'll do whatever it takes to get it back to working order again.** Neville Provo



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Six teens plead guilty to sharing intimate images

CRIME

Case to test law introduced after Rehtaeh Parsons' death



Six male high school students from Bridgewater Junior Senior High School are facing charges following an investigation into complaints that intimate images of at least 20 young female students were shared online. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Six male youths in Nova Scotia pleaded guilty Wednesday to sharing intimate images of high school girls without their consent, concluding one of Canada's largest prosecutions involving a relatively untested but high-profile law.

The six were charged in July 2016 after police in Bridgewater, N.S., wrapped up a year-long investigation by alleging the youths — all local high school students — had distributed intimate images of at least 20 girls.

"We hope that the notoriety of this case produces more awareness across the country that this type of conduct isn't simply boys being boys — and it's not simply a school disciplinary problem," said Peter Dostal, a senior Crown attorney with the province's special prosecutions office.

"Many instances of this type of conduct reaches the level of criminal activity and needs to be treated as such."

At the time the charges were laid, four of the accused — all students at Bridgewater High School — were 15 years old and the other two were 18. However, all were under 18 when the offences were committed, which means their identities are protected from publication under the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

Dostal said the boys conspired to trade the images amongst themselves. They will be sentenced July 31.

The majority of the victims were also students at the high school, Bridgewater police said at the time.

"This type of activity has been on the radar of schools and law enforcement for quite some time, and now that we're better equipped with the intimate image charge, we're able to have law enforcement address these concerns," he said. "This is often very troubling, very serious conduct that has devastating consequences upon many vulnerable young persons."

The case is one of the first in Canada involving legislation introduced in late 2013 after the death of Nova Scotia teen Rehtaeh Parsons, which captured national attention amid a heated public debate over cyberbullying.

The 17-year-old attempted suicide and was taken off life support after a digital photo — of what her family says was a sexual assault — was circulated among students at her school in Cole Harbour, N.S.

> **We hope that the notoriety of this case produces more awareness.**
> Peter Dostal,

The intimate images bill became law in March 2015.

Wayne MacKay, a law professor at Dalhousie University in Halifax, said the outcome of the sentencing in the Bridgewater case will be important because there are few cases dealing with this type of charge.

He said that under the Youth Criminal Justice Act, jail sentences are unlikely. However, given the scale of the offences, MacKay said the court may be inclined to send a strong message to deter other young people from doing the same thing.

MacKay, an expert on cyberbullying, said the six accused may face court-ordered restrictions, including a prohibition on access to the Internet, "which could be quite a big deterrent to young people."

However, the guilty pleas mean the justice system will not receive greater clarity about what kind of evidence in such cases constitutes lack of consent.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DISEASE PREVENTION

Health coaching for black residents

African Nova Scotians will be getting some support managing their health with personalized health coaching.

Chronic disease prevention is being addressed with the launch of The Matter of Black Health — Health Coaching to Live Well in Nova Scotia.

Diabetes Canada and the Health Association of Africans teamed up for the project, with the initiative being supported with $96,666 over two years from the Nova Scotia Chronic Disease Innovation Fund. Premier Stephen McNeil announced the funding Wednesday at the Upper Hammonds Plain Community Centre.

The Medavie Foundation provided an additional $100,000.

The funding will be used to hire health coaches to work with individuals at risk of developing a chronic disease, or those already suffering from one.

People of African descent have a higher-than-average risk of developing diabetes according to Diabetes Canada, and McNeil said he wants to help Nova Scotians live longer, healthier lives.

A community-based approach will be used for people of African descent living in Digby, Yarmouth, Annapolis Valley, Halifax Regional Municipality, Hants County, South Shore, Antigonish, Guysborough, and Cape Breton.

METRO





Ex-canteen becomes Dartmouth pizzeria

EATING OUT

Yeah Yeahs scheduled to open in May

Grace Gormley
For Metro | Halifax



Josh Nordin, right, and Dean Petty take a break from painting the future home of Yeah Yeahs Pizza in Dartmouth. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Dean Petty saw a pizza opportunity and he took it.

The co-owner of Anchored Coffee and his business partner Josh Nordin are excited to transform the former Canteen space into a modern, family-friendly pizza place in Dartmouth.

After noticing how well The Canteen was doing above the Two If By Sea café, Petty asked Nordin if they should go for it when the spot opened up.

Originally, Petty proposed sandwiches, but pizza came out on top — for obvious reasons.

"100 out of 99 people love pizza," Petty said.

Yeah Yeahs is scheduled to open in May, and the pair thinks their unique ingredients will appeal to the family side of Dartmouth.

"We will be exercising simplicity," said Nordin.

Their menu will include five main pizzas, but will rotate specials depending on the season or local interest.

"Our margherita pizza will crush."

The duo is focusing on nailing the little details down to create an all-around amazing slice, and teaming up with a local dough-maker to perfect their vision.

"The dough is really important. It needs to be crispy but chewy, foldable but still holds," said Petty.

They plan to include salads on their menu, along with some fun desserts. Ice cream sandwiches are also being discussed.

Another distinct feature will be the in-house drinks offered on tap: three sodas, including lemonade.

As for the space, fun and welcoming is the goal.

"Aesthetically, I love the idea," said Nordin.

The open-concept upstairs will hold approximately 36 seats, with big tables so friends can open a box and share. They also plan on having paper plates and crayons for the younger crowd.

> **100 out of 99 people love pizza.**
> Dean Petty

With the park across the street, they envision people grabbing a slice and going to sit over there to enjoy it.

Some friends of theirs also own North Brewing Company, a craft brewer with a store next door, and they're working on a cross-promotional deal to combine their two specialties.

"We're very fortunate to have them next door," said Nordin.

They think people will take advantage of the promo — "Get a pizza, get a beer."

Pizza delivery is another thing they plan to look into down the line, but will be keeping delivery services close to the immediate community.

"Scooter delivery is a possibility," Petty laughed.

Even though they won't be delivering outside the neighbourhood, Nordin thinks Yeahs Yeahs will also appeal to the pizza-lovers of Halifax.

"We hope to pull people over here across the bridge," he said.

As for now, the two guys are having a blast making Yeah Yeahs come to life.

"We're really excited," Nordin said.

TIMINGS

Yeah Yeahs Pizza's hours will be Tuesday to Sunday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. The hours may change on the weekends for those looking for a late-night slice.

Martel to reflect on loss, imagination



Yvette d'Entremont
Metro | Halifax

Popular Life of Pi author Yann Martel is in Halifax to deliver free public lectures on Thursday and Friday.

As the guest for the 2017 Cyril Byrne Memorial Lecture, Martel will reflect on the theme of loss at the Halifax Central Library on Thursday night. Guests are encouraged to come dressed in black.

On Friday night, he'll celebrate the power of the imagination at Saint Mary's University's McNally Main Auditorium. Guests are encouraged to wear bright colours to that event.



Life of Pi author Yann Martel. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

"The theme we came up with through consultation with Yann is if you've read any of his stuff those (loss and imagination) are two dominant themes that keep occurring in book after book," explained Saint Mary's University professor and event organizer Alexander MacLeod.

"Very, very emotional and moving portrayals of loss and then the way to grapple with such loss through a kind of energizing engaging of the imagination. Those two things that would seem like antonyms to some people are interdependent and essential to understanding what's going on in so many of Yann's books."

MacLeod said they're thrilled the Booker Prize winner is coming to Halifax, and the author has also expressed his delight about delivering this year's memorial lecture on two nights, at two sites.

"Yann is a great supporter of libraries. One of his great commitments is to public reading. Right now you'll see he's part of a campaign reading for refugees," MacLeod said.

"He's a great believer in the value of reading, the value of public engagement with books. Saint Mary's has always had a good relationship with the library, so the chance to pair up and work on this together fit with Yann's commitments and our commitments."

The annual lecture honours the memory of Cyril Byrne, a much-loved Saint Mary's University professor who died of cancer in 2006. He was instrumental in founding the Atlantic Canada Studies program in 1975 and the Chair of Irish Studies in 1985.

"This year we're celebrating the 40th year of Saint Mary's working in continuing education through offering university courses through the library," MacLeod said.

"I think the record showed Cyril was actually the first person to offer university education through the library, so we're celebrating a big vision of a university not confined to its campus, not confined to ivory tower stereotypes, but an idea of education that was broad and welcoming."

DETAILS

Both lectures are free, so seating is limited. Thursday's Central Library lecture is at 6:30 p.m. and Friday's begins at 7 p.m. in the SMU McNally Main Auditorium.



2017 BUDGET

Transit riders are losing their tax breaks



Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Ottawa

The Liberal government is eliminating the tax credit allowing Canadians to deduct part of the cost of monthly transit passes.

The 15 per cent non-refundable tax credit has been in place since 2006.

"We will eliminate inefficient tax measures, especially those that disproportionately benefit the wealthy," finance minister Bill Morneau said in his speech in the Commons.

While the public transit credit does not disproportionately impact the wealthy, Morneau said it wasn't working.

"We set on a course to make sure our tax system was fair and that our tax system was efficient," he said. "We found that it was not doing what it was intended to do."

Riders will be able to deduct passes this year up until June, but after that the credit will end.

Morneau said the government was investing in building more public transit, which would ultimately do a better job of growing ridership.

Edmonton Mayor Don Iveson, chair of the Big City Mayor's Caucus, said that tax credit amounting to $5 or $10 a month is not going to make or break a person's decision to take transit. But NDP leader Tom Mulcair countered back, saying that it's a mistake to look at the credit only as an incentive to take transit; it's also a social good.

According to the government, removing the credit will save just over $1 billion over the next five years.

The latest figures show about 1.8 million Canadians claim the credit annually, but only about 1.3 million people actually make enough money for the credit to reduce their taxes.

5 Things worth taking note of in the budget

The 2017 federal budget has money for transit, affordable housing and is the first-ever budget to be considered through a gender-based prism.

RYAN TUMILTY/METRO



Minister of Finance Bill Morneau
THE CANADIAN PRESS

1 Gender equality

In what was billed as an historic first, the Liberal government says the entire 2017 federal budget was considered through a gender-based prism, with specific investments framed to promote equality and bring more women into the workforce. Speaking to Parliament on Wednesday, Finance Minister Bill Morneau said all measures in the new budget were assessed based on their impact on women. The "Gender Statement" in the 2017 budget outlines the persisting wage gap between men and women in Canada, as well as the overrepresentation of women in lower income sectors and the low proportion of women in management and boardroom positions.

2 Transit

The government will spend $20.6 billion over the next 11 years across the country on public transit projects. The Liberals are prepared to cover up to 40 per cent of new subways and light rail lines. The number rises to 50 per cent for repair or rehabilitation projects, but the government is capping the amount that can be spent on rehabilitation, favouring the construction of new projects. As cities had asked, there will be no application process, with money flowing based on an agreed upon formula that will prioritize cities that already have large transit ridership.

3 Housing

The government is investing $11.2 billion over 11 years on affordable housing. The money won't start flowing until after the 2019 election, even as cities across the country are closing subsidized housing units and have people on long wait lists. The funding will go to the provinces to build new units and repair existing ones, as well as a new national housing fund that will provide low-coast loans for more hosing units and help keep current rent-geared-to-income units open. The government is also pledging to open up more federal land at little or no cost for affordable housing.

4 Child care

The budget includes $7 billion over the next decade to increase access to affordable child care, the option to begin maternity leave earlier or extend parental leave to 18 months. The details outlined estimated that child care spending could create 40,000 new, subsidized daycare spaces countrywide over the next three years, representing a bump of less than 10 per cent in the overall number of spaces.

5 Ethics training for judges

The federal government will invest additional $2.7 million over five years, plus $500,000 annually afterwards, for the Canadian Judicial Council to support training on ethics and conduct for federally appointed judges, while also ensuring access to professional development that is gender and culturally sensitive.

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1 British Prime Minister Theresa May speaks outside 10 Downing Street in central London on Wednesday, after the terror incident in the U.K. Parliament.

2 An armed police officer guards Westminster Bridge and the Houses of Parliament on Wednesday.

3 A member of Parliament helps emergency services attend to an injured person outside the Houses of Parliament.

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES & ASSOCIATED PRESS

May promises to move forward

TERRORISM

Five killed, 40 injured in attack on U.K. Parliament

A knife-wielding man went on a deadly rampage in the heart of Britain's seat of power Wednesday, plowing a car into pedestrians on London's Westminster Bridge before stabbing a police officer to death inside the gates of Parliament. Five people were killed, including the assailant, and 40 others were injured in what Prime Minister Theresa May condemned as a "sick and depraved terrorist attack."

Lawmakers, lords, staff and visitors were locked down after the man was shot by police within the perimeter of Parliament, just metres from entrances to the building itself and in the shadow of the iconic Big Ben clock tower. He died, as did three pedestrians on the bridge, and the police officer.

A doctor who treated the wounded from the bridge said some had "catastrophic" injuries. Three police officers, several French teenagers on a school trip and two Romanian tourists were among the casualties.

Police said they were treating the attack as terrorism. There was no immediate claim of responsibility. Metropolitan Police counterterrorism chief Mark Rowley said police believed there was only one attacker, "but it would be foolish to be overconfident early on."

The threat level for international terrorism in the U.K. was already listed at severe, meaning an attack was "highly likely."

Speaking outside 10 Downing St. after chairing a meeting of government's emergency committee, COBRA, May said that level would not change. She said attempts to defeat British values of democracy and freedom through terrorism would fail.

"Tomorrow morning, Parliament will meet as normal," she said. Londoners and visitors "will all move forward together, never giving in to terror and never allowing the voices of hate and evil to drive us apart."

U.S. President Donald Trump was among world leaders offering condolences, and in Paris, the lights of the Eiffel Tower were to be dimmed in solidarity with London.

Parliament was locked down for several hours, and the adjoining Westminster subway station was shuttered.

The attack began early Wednesday afternoon as a driver in a grey SUV slammed into pedestrians on the bridge linking Parliament to the south bank of the River Thames.

Ambulances arrived within minutes to treat people who lay scattered along the length of the bridge. One bloodied woman lay surrounded by a scattering of postcards. Police said one injured woman was pulled from the river.

The car crashed into railings on the north side of the bridge, less than 200 metres from the entrance to Parliament. As people scattered in panic, witnesses saw a man holding a knife run toward the building. The attacker managed to get past a gate into Parliament's fenced-in New Palace Yard, a cobbled courtyard in the shadow of Big Ben.

Daily Mail journalist Quentin Letts said a man in black attacked the police officer before being shot two or three times as he tried to storm into the building.

"As this attacker was running towards the entrance two plain-clothed guys with guns shouted at him … he ignored it and they shot two or three times and he fell," Letts told the BBC.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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REACTION

Trudeau to London: 'We stand with you'

The apparent terrorist incident outside the British Parliament is a cowardly attack on democracy around the world, says Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Canada stands ready to help Britain in any way it can after the attack, which left at least five dead in London, Trudeau said Wednesday.

The dead included the attacker and a police officer, and some 20 more were wounded in the incident, which occurred on the grounds of the Parliament Buildings and the nearby Westminster Bridge, London police said.

In Canada's House of Commons, Trudeau called the attack on Britain's seat of democracy "a cowardly and reprehensible act that we condemn in the strongest terms.

"Canada and the U.K. are close friends and allies and our message to the citizens of the United Kingdom and our colleagues in the British Parliament is simple: We stand with you."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



People make a heart with their hands during the one-year anniversary of the attack in Brussels on Wednesday. GETTY IMAGES

Brussels marks anniversary of attacks

ANNIVERSARY

City trying to forge ahead after last year's deadly massacre

As the chaos in London, U.K. ensues, the city of Brussels , Belgium is marking the one-year anniversary of a day in which three bombers killed 32 people and wounded more than 300 in the Brussels airport and subway a year ago.

A year later, the city's physical scars may have healed, but the pain is still there. Residents and authorities are determined to forge ahead, without changing the character of their city.

"It's the responsibility of each and every one of us to make our society more humane, and more just," King Philippe told a remembrance service as a new monument was unveiled to the victims in the Belgian capital's European quarter.

"Above all, let us dare to be tender," he said.

The fear of an attack is widely shared across Europe, underlined at Britain's parliament Wednesday as an attacker stabbed an officer and was then shot by police, and witnesses said a vehicle struck several people on the nearby bridge.

Even if locals in Brussels are mostly oblivious to heavily armed paratroopers patrolling the city's landmarks, visitors still stop in their tracks when they notice the camouflage dress and the machine-guns.

Normality is still far off on the anniversary of the attacks.

Before the attacks, said Patrick Bontinck, CEO of the Visit Brussels tourist office, "tourism was growing approximately 10 per cent each year since five years."

"We had a drop of approximately from 30 to 40 per cent in just two or three days after the attack," Bontinck said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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A man drinks water pumped from the Nile river on in Juba, South Sudan. Nearly a third of people in sub-Saharan Africa do not have access to safe drinking water. GETTY IMAGES

African states need safe water

INFRASTRUCTURE

World health agency says 1.8 billion use unsafe supply

Nearly a third of people in sub-Saharan Africa do not have access to safe drinking water, the World Water Council said Wednesday, urging governments to contribute adequate amounts of their budgets toward projects aimed at making safe water widely available.

"There is an absolute necessity to increase water security in order to overcome the challenges brought on by climate change and human influence ... We need commitment at the highest levels," the organization's president, Benedito Braga, said in a statement marking World Water Day.

Africa and Asia are the most affected by scarcity of safe water, with Papua New Guinea, Equatorial Guinea and Angola reporting that clean water is available to less than 50 per cent of their populations, the statement said.

Globally, at least 1.8 billion people use a drinking-water source contaminated with feces, and half of the world's population will be living in water-stressed areas by 2025, according to the World Health Organization.

The water problem is particularly serious in sub-Saharan Africa, where 32 per cent of people lack access to clean water and where some of the world's poorest live.

In Africa's largest city, environmental activists protested for better access to clean water. Community leaders in Lagos, Nigeria, said residents of the sprawling city of 21 million are suffering.

"When we fetch the water, it foams and smells like petrol and detergent was poured into it," Barakatu Elegbede said.

Less than 20 per cent of Lagos residents have access to clean water, said activist Akinbode Oluwafemi. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RED CROSS

The international Red Cross is appealing for $400 million to help millions of people facing famine or the risk of it in four conflict-ridden countries: Somalia, Yemen, South Sudan and Nigeria. The Geneva-based humanitarian agency said Wednesday it wants a "massive scale-up" in assistance and hopes to provide "essential aid" to about 5 million people.

UNITED STATES

Trump 'vindicated' after intel briefing

Communications of Donald Trump's transition officials — possibly including the incoming president himself — may have been scooped up in legal surveillance but then improperly distributed throughout the intelligence community, the chairman of the House intelligence committee said Wednesday.

In an extraordinary set of statements to reporters, Republican Rep. Devin Nunes said the intercepted communications do not appear to be related to the ongoing FBI investigation into Trump associates' contacts with Russia or any criminal warrants.

Nunes, who served on Trump's transition team, said he believes the intelligence collections were done legally but that identities of Trump officials and the content of their communications may have been inappropriately disseminated in intelligence reports.

"What I've read bothers me, and I think it should bother the president himself and his team," Nunes said Wednesday after briefing Trump privately.

Trump said he felt "somewhat" vindicated by the revelations, despite the fact that Nunes said the new information did not change his assessment that the president's explosive claim that Barack Obama wiretapped his New York skyscraper was false.

Shortly after being briefed, Trump told reporters: "I very much appreciated the fact that they found what they found."

Nunes said the information on the Trump team was collected in November, December and January, the period after the election when Trump was holding calls with foreign leaders, interviewing potential cabinet secretaries and beginning to sketch out administration policy.

Nunes said the names of Trump associates were "unmasked" after the incidental collection, though he did not identify those names. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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THOMAS WALKOM ON A TEPID FEDERAL BUDGET



It's not a useless document ... but in far too many areas, rhetoric threatens to outstrip action.

Finance Minister Bill Morneau's budget is big on talk and dodgy about timing.

It's not a useless document. Released Wednesday, the budget, signals (again) the federal Liberal government's economic priorities of trade, training and innovation.

It lays down markers in the area of health care and child care that, while not always new, are nonetheless welcome.

But in far too many areas, rhetoric threatens to outstrip action.

The promise to provide Canadians with "new and better jobs," for instance, translates into some new money ($200 million this coming year) and a pledge to renegotiate training programs with the provinces.

A promise to encourage "Canada's advantage in artificial intelligence," comes with no new money attached at all.

Much is made of encouraging Canada's farmers and food processors — what the budget calls the agri-food industry. But the most tangible element in this regard is a promise to develop a new policy "framework," details of which will come later.

In its so-called "gender statement" chapter, the budget correctly notes that the gap between male and female wages in Canada is among the highest in the industrial world.

But at roughly $500 million a year, its proposed remedy — an increase in support for child care and early learning — remains relatively modest and well below what is required to fund a coherent, national daycare program.

The budget calls for an $11-billion national housing strategy to encourage, among other things, affordable housing. But most of the money is slated to be spent years from now, well after the next election.

As the budget itself points out, the government has a mixed record in actually spending the monies it promises for such worthy ventures.

To Morneau's credit, he has not allowed himself to be swayed by those who economist Paul Krugman calls the deficit scolds. The Liberal government appears happy to incur deficits in the neighbourhood of $20 to $30 billion annually, as the price of social spending, for at least five more years.

Still, the political spectre of debt and deficit hangs over this government. Morneau and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau know the public is relatively sanguine these days about Ottawa spending more than it takes in.

But they also know public opinion can quickly change — particularly if voters come to believe that Ottawa is wasting their tax dollars. Which perhaps explains the flat tone of this budget. It is as if Morneau deliberately wants to downplay it.

The document itself is unusually verbose and confusing. Monies promised last year have been reallocated to future years. The focus is on micro rather than macro-economic solutions to the problems of unemployment and insecure work.

The themes the government wants to promote — innovation and aid to women — sound contrived.

One that does not, however, is Morneau's apparent faith in the felicity of small reforms — the idea that useful change does not necessarily require vast amounts of money, either in the form of spending or tax cuts.

Indeed, any tax changes proposed in this budget are deliberately downplayed. The public transit tax break will be eliminated. Drinkers will pay higher excise taxes for their alcohol. Non-residents buying certain kinds of holiday tour packages in Canada will no longer be exempted from HST. Smokers will pay a little more.

If the government reckons that this will not spur a national tax revolt, it is probably correct.

If the government reckons that voters will not pay much attention to this budget at all, it is probably correct there too.

As the budget itself points out, the government has a mixed record in actually spending the monies it promises.

Guess I need a baby to benefit from this budget



Vicky Mochama
Metro

I really don't want one but I think I should have a kid. I was reviewing the new federal budget and that's probably my best move.

Finance minister Bill Morneau introduced it with an anecdote about a Toronto taxi driver who, on recognizing Morneau, called his wife so they both could tell the minister about the positive impact the Canada child benefit has had on their lives. Good for them and their anecdotal children.

This budget goes further in supporting families. It proposes to let mothers to take more of their maternity leave in advance of giving birth and allow families to choose to spread parental leave payments over 18 months instead of the current 12.

I, for one, hope Morneau takes the bus when he's in town, because I might like to meet him to have a few choice words about the mid-2017 elimination of the public transit tax credit. It helped offset the cost of transportation by allowing you to deduct part of the cost of a transit pass on your income tax.

The government's solution is to give millions more to provinces and territories directly and through the proposed Canada Infrastructure Bank. All that money goes to projects that are in progress and regional plans that are under discussion. None of it goes towards a young person who is paying more and more for transit that doesn't go very far.

Recently, I added up how much I spend on cabs including Uber. I didn't like the number. Yesterday's budget promised to make it even bigger by requiring taxi-like ridesharing services to pay GST/HST – a tax increase that will be passed on to consumers. Now, if only there were some kind of infrastructure bank that paid for faster, more efficient transit so I didn't have to take cabs.

Perhaps their back-up plan is the Youth Service Initiative, which was mentioned in last year's budget. This year's budget allocates no money for this idea but there is a call for proposals.

My idea: Un- and under-employed youth should be drafted into service to piggyback those of us who can no longer afford transit passes.

Speaking to press, Opposition Leader Rona Ambrose insisted her party would be the voice of the taxpayer. Who, I ask, will represent those of us who um, ah, haven't been super on top of our paperwork? (Hey, CRA, these are jokes. I promise.)

The budget also increases the excise duty on alcohol paid by importers and producers. This is a niche problem, but the price of my favourite wine has already gone up. A two-per-cent tax increase brings me down to just one or three bottles per week.

Which is bad, because I might need a glass or two to get into this baby-making venture.

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Scribes behind TLC's 1999 hit No Scrubs now listed as co-writers of Ed Sheeran's Shape of You

INTERVIEW

A very American movement will lead the demise of expertise: Author

Genna Buck
Metro Canada



No one listens to the experts anymore



Americans steadfastly believe in the common sense of the common person, says Tom Nichols, author of The Death of Expertise: The Campaign Against Established Knowledge and Why it Matters. ISTOCK/ILLUSTRATION

Tom Nichols is an expert. He has a PhD in government from Georgetown University. He's an authority on Russian politics and a professor at the United States Naval War College. But, he argues in The Death of Expertise: The Campaign Against Established Knowledge and Why it Matters, practically no one cares.

Across society, rich and poor, right and left, we're not just dismissing or criticizing experts, but pooh-poohing the whole idea of expertise itself, he writes. And because it came out just as the world is reckoning with the rise of a proudly inexpert U.S. president, his book has touched a nerve.

You might know Nichols from Twitter as @RadioFreeTom, a famously ruthless conservative critic of President Trump. (He reluctantly supported Hillary Clinton in the 2016 election).

We asked him about the anti-expert trend and what to do with it.

There's always been anti-intellectualism. But it's become so noticeable. What's happening?
People don't want to talk about it, but it's because of the growth of narcissism in our society. We really have become so acclimated to thinking that our views on everything are as important and as worthwhile as everyone else's. Every professional in the world at this point has encountered somebody who has told them how to do their job.

You blame this in part on higher education.
I think a motivated, intelligent student can still get a great education in Europe, Canada or the United States. But in the competition for students and loan dollars, colleges are marketing themselves to teenagers as though they're cars. Many more people are going to college, and many of them shouldn't be going. And that hurts the whole issue of expertise because ... college is no longer a good discriminator for who knows what they're talking about.

The U.S. has elected a president who isn't shy about his lack of expertise. What was it like watching this wave of Trump mania?
I saw it coming. And this wasn't the first election. Although people want to tie this pretty strongly to Donald Trump, it's important to remember Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton's followers believed a lot of outrageous things as well. This has been going on for years. The Trump campaign, better than anybody, caught this wave and surfed it effectively

Is there something specifically American about the anti-expertise trend?
Americans are not comfortable with ideas of class. We believe in the common sense of the common person. So there's always been fertile ground for questioning experts. What's different is this phenomenon of everyone turning into insufferable know-it-alls. We (used to have) a healthy respect for the division of labour. And that's gone

Could automation be creating a false sense that jobs are simple and easy?
Absolutely right. The death of expertise is a disease of affluence. When you're looking around the world and everything just works, you say, "How hard can this be? Who can't fly a plane?" The other problem with so much technology is it makes people realize how dependent on experts they are. And that breeds a sense of helplessness and anger.



Tom Nichols

What do you think will make average people suffer the most under this trend?
Most troubles are recoverable. I mean if you screw up the economy, you can recover. But when people are out there suggesting that we need to do something firm about Ukraine, and then cannot place Ukraine on the right continent on a map, I worry that we're really headed into problems of war and peace. This kind of ignorant populism sooner or later will either decay into authoritarianism, or — the bigger danger — experts will simply disengage and start running things without arguing with the public.

Does anything give you hope that this can be turned around?
Nope. There's no hope. Thanks for the interview!

Really?
Well, I admit I'm somewhat pessimistic. I think the thing that's most likely to change this is some kind of economic or foreign policy disaster or a pandemic. Nothing will end the anti-vaxxer nonsense faster than a pandemic.

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How to clean puzzling problem areas

HOME LIVING

Expert Melissa Maker offers tips to readers on tidying up

Melissa Maker, the 34-year-old Toronto woman behind Clean My Space — the popular YouTube channel, cleaning service and new book — calls her boutique business the "Starbucks of cleaning."

Clean My Space is a well-oiled machine with its own vernacular. Where Starbucks invented coffee sizing lingo, Maker's team created a new cleaning language, from the PTTs (products, tool and techniques) and MIAs (most important areas) to the "59 Point Checklist," which is used to ensure the best clean of all spaces.

People wrote in with their burning questions, which Maker says were representative of some of the most common problems in cleaning. Here's her advice for how to tackle stains, glass, leather, hardwood and grout.

PROBLEM: Glass

Valerie Bain needs a ladder to clean the 10-foot-tall floor-to-ceiling glass wall that surrounds the staircase in her home. It needs to be cleaned often, she says, noting she has dogs, but she can't manage it without streaks. The glass is typically cleaned with a towel and a homemade solution of alcohol, water and Dawn, or the classic Windex with vinegar. But she likes her house smelling clean and fresh, not like she's been pickling all day.

SOLUTION: Squeegee and vinegar

Invest in a double-sided squeegee (one side padded, the other rubber bladed). "You will not believe how easy it is to clean glass with this powerful tool and it takes just seconds to get a streak-free shine," Maker says.

Forget glass-cleaning brands. Instead, fill a bucket with a homemade solution of 16 cups (4 litres) hot water, 1 teaspoon (5 millilitres) dish soap and 1 cup (250 millilitres) of white vinegar. If the vinegar smell is too strong, infuse orange peels in the vinegar, leave in a Mason jar for two weeks and strain before using. "This is now your citrus-oil cleaning vinegar, which not only smells lovely," Maker says, "but also provides an extra degreasing punch."

PROBLEM: Hardwood floors

Melora Parker Pistore has difficulty with her "fumed oak" hardwood flooring, which has a natural oil finish. She lives in the suburb home with her husband, two daughters and their large Bernedoodle dog. The family's white socks still come up dirty, despite a weekly clean of the hardwood. She's nervous about getting too much water on the natural wood, but the current method of vacuuming and mopping with a Swiffer WetJet isn't working.

SOLUTION: pH neutral products

Leave the Swiffer WetJet for touch-ups, not the main job, Maker says.

"I find the absolute best method to clean hardwood floors is to use a pH neutral product that won't leave any waxy, sticky residue behind and will take all of the dirt with it," she says.

Look for a trusted formulation such as Armstrong spray or Bona cleaner and opt for a flat-head microfibre mop with interchangeable pads.

PROBLEM: Grout

Sonya Matte loves her kitchen tiles. But the quarter-inch-wide grout in between are exhausting to clean. She's not alone. Carmen Krasevac, Marilyn Rothmanm, Sophie Dixon and Andrea Greene also wrote in about the grout in their homes. They've tried toothbrushes and steam cleaners, baking soda and vinegar concoctions to no avail.



Melissa Maker(left) is a cleaning expert and YouTube sensation. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

SOLUTION: Hard work and dark grout

The short answer is you either get on your hands and knees or call in a professional, Maker says. "Grout is porous, like our skin. And when grout isn't sealed, it avails itself to absorbing dirt from food, body oils and products."

If using a steam cleaner, it needs to be powerful. Those purchased for $50 likely won't do the job. Make sure it's heating up to 212 F (100 C) or it won't work. Maker suggests a brand called Reliable. If using a toothbrush, try cleaning with oxygen bleach, a common cleaning powder such as OxiClean, and seal the grout after it has dried. Oh and, next time there's a tile job," she says, "opt for dark grout."

> **"Oh and, next time there's a tile job, opt for dark grout."**
> Melissa Maker, Clean My Space



PROBLEM: Leather

Elizabeth Cornish thinks her ivory leather couches were a bad decision. She thought they'd be easy to clean, but her often barefoot son, who wears shorts and T-shirts most days, seems to have stained one of the couches with his bodily oils. They used to have a cleaner every two weeks at their home, but opted to clean themselves as expenses rose.

SOLUTION: Leather degreaser

"The struggle is real on leather pieces," Maker says. "Ivory leather couches and humans don't generally mix well."

But for oil stains, a leather degreaser, which could require several applications, should do the trick. Maker suggests the leather Master degreaser.

"In future, make sure to keep food and oily body parts off the sofa," she says. Try laying down blankets, a "slippers-or socks-on rule" and clean the couch on a regular basis with a product like Leather CPR.

PROBLEM: Stains

Wendy Galati has tried to remove the pet urine stains left by her small, female poodle-mix on her wool and cotton area rug to no avail. First, she tried pouring vinegar on the stain — nothing. Next, she tried baking soda to diminish the strain — that didn't work either. She'd love to solve the problem without bringing in the pros.

SOLUTION: Enzymes

"Vinegar and baking soda really aren't going to affect pet urine," Maker says. Since pets have heightened sense of smell too, they'll come back and reoffend in the same spot all over again.

But some "specialty enzyme cleaners" — products that can eat through urine — such as Urine Off or Nature's Miracle, are the best tool when you catch the stain immediately. Use a pheromone product that calms pets, such as Comfort Zone, for prevention. Ultimately, a good cleaner always know when to delegate, Maker says. "As someone who has two cats at home, one of which loves peeing on the carpet, the best, most surefire way to get rid of a pet stain is to take it to a professional." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Netflix can chill on a tax for now

BUDGET 2017 ANALYSIS

New Uber tax may set stage for tariff on digital content



Joe Callaghan
Metro Canada

The world's leading streaming service might have breathed an initial sigh of relief on Wednesday afternoon when it scanned the 2017 Federal Budget and found itself off the hook in the government's plan for the coming year.

Some observers had focused on the possible introduction of a 'Netflix tax' in Wednesday's budget. In the wake of Heritage Minister Melanie Joly's indication earlier this year that she was eager to find a way to both establish a tax on digital content subscriptions and upgrade Canadian content rules for the digital age, Netflix looked to be in the firing line.

But the initial impression that they came out unscathed may be off the mark.

The 'Uber tax,' which was one of the headline policies unveiled by Finance Minister Bill Morneau Wednesday, set the precedent for a broader tax on digital services, a net that Netflix could in the future find itself caught up in.

Michael Geist, University of Ottawa law professor and one of the country's foremost voices on wireless and digital commerce, saw it that way.

"The biggest digital implications may ultimately come from the policy reforms," he wrote in an analysis of the budget. "First up may be new digital sales taxes. The…commitment to extend sales taxes to ride sharing companies such as Uber, (is) a move that seems likely to ultimately lead to a broader extension of sales taxes to digital services such as Netflix."

The Los Gatos, Calif.-based streaming service, which has more than 5 million subscribers in this country, has been engaged in a stand-off with successive Canadian governments on a number of fronts. One of the debates is whether it should have to contribute to the Canadian Media Fund and Canadian content, something it is exempt from under the current Broadcasting Act because its operations aren't based here.

> **The coming year will have enormous implications for the future of Canada's digital policies**
> Michael Geist, law professor

But with yesterday's budget promising reforms in both the Broadcasting and Telecommunications Acts, upheaval is likely.

"This guarantees that the major policy fights of the past year will continue into the next," added Geist in his post on michaelgeist.ca.

INTERVIEW

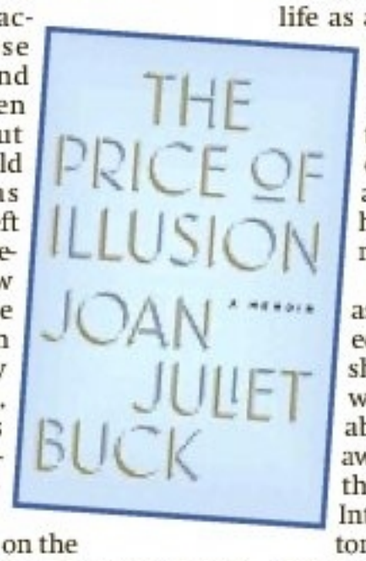
Her memoir about life as an outsider



Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

There is a leaf blower creating a ruckus outside Joan Juliet Buck's room at the Chateau Marmont.

The iconic Sunset Boulevard hotel, with its intimidating stonewalls and discreet staff, has been a famous hideout for Hollywood celebrities, supermodels and other beautiful people since the 1930s. It's a world in which Buck is familiar — her father co-owned a film production company with Peter O'Toole, her mother was an actor whose best friend was Lauren Bacall. But it's a world Buck has happily left behind, preferring now the more bohemian company of artists, writers and theatre performers.



Buck is on the phone at the Marmont doing interviews for her new memoir, The Price of Illusion, which chronicles her early life as an expat in Paris, her teenage years as an It Girl in Swinging London, a string of romantic affairs with the likes of Donald Sutherland and Eric Rothschild, and her career as a cultural reviewer.

Buck is best known as the only American to edit Vogue Paris, which she did for seven years when she was inexplicably banished and sent away to rehab by her boss, the head of Condé Nast International, for a phantom addiction she clearly didn't suffer from.

The first draft of The Price of Illusion was more than 1,000 pages long, not surprising given Buck's rich life, her travels and the people she has encountered.



Joan Juliet Buck. CONTRIBUTED

But something happened as she "whittled and sculpted" to find the truth. "I zeroed in on the thing that had been the problem all along, which has been illusion," Buck says.

Buck spent much of her life feeling like a perpetual outsider, from the time her family moved to Paris when she was three, to her reign at Vogue. "Unless I am really focused with a purpose on doing something like writing or now acting, I never quite felt I belong," she says. One place that did feel like home to Buck was at the Irish estate of her father's friend and colleague, film producer John Huston — more specifically with his wife Ricki, a former ballet dancer who was killed in a car crash at age 39. Ricki's daughters, actor Angelica and author Allegra Huston, who Buck refers to as "semi-sisters," became unofficial fact checkers for the book.

Now age 68, Buck spends most of her time surrounded by trees at her small home in the Hudson Valley, which she bought after giving up her loft in New York's Hell's Kitchen.

She surrounds herself only with true friends, having given up any "fake relationships" from the past.



BUDGET 2017 ANALYSIS

Artists nationwide hope $300M will mean more space to create

Last year's rollout of a raft of cultural funding by the Liberal government was never likely to be mirrored with another bonanza for the arts Wednesday. But the creative sector wasn't left totally empty handed.

One of the pledges came buried on page 142 of Finance Minister Bill Morneau's plan for the next year. Budget 2017 outlined a $300 million boost to the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund which the government said will help "construct, renovate and better equip" creative spaces "for the next generation."

Prem Gill, CEO of Creative BC, an independent agency responsible for promoting the development of creative industries in the province, welcomed the proposal.

"In general we're seeing much more of a collaborative shared workspace environment across the creative and tech industries," Gill told Metro. "Investing in any program that brings talent together especially in the creative industry always has a huge benefit. You're probably talking about upgrading and creating new spaces. You want it to fuel creativity when you bring people together."



TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

For the on-the-ground creatives, yesterday's pledge also found welcoming ears.

Tom Chwieszczenik is a Toronto-based landscape architect who throughout the winter turns his attention to Winter Stations (pictured), a design competition challenging artists to turn a clutch of lifeguard stations along the city's lakefront into installations.

In light of concerns over high-profile urban creative hubs disappearing — 401 Richmond, a long-standing hive for some of Toronto's creative and non-profits, is fighting crippling tax hikes — Chwieszczenik welcomed the Cultural Spaces boost.

"It's great that they're upping the funding in this area. It's somewhere where there is always funding and support needed. When you read about what's going on with 401 Richmond and all those other spaces, it's somewhere we need assistance right now," he said.

"From what I hear, from my friends in other categories in the arts, they all do have moments where they struggle, across the board. It's really great to hear them use terms like the creative (economy)."

JOE CALLAGHAN/METRO

TOP 150 FOR 150
CELEBRATING CANADA'S GIFTS TO THE WORLD

Canada's flag: Leaf it to us

Sean Plummer

Though Canada turns 150 this year, our flag is a lot younger. The symbol of our nation — with its red 11-point maple leaf on a white background, flanked by fields of red — wasn't unveiled until 1965.



Before that, the search for the right flag to represent Canada had gone on for decades. Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King first established a committee to study the issue in 1925 but was shut down by, among others, people loyal to the Union Jack.

Another parliamentary flag committee formed by King in 1945 likewise went nowhere. It wasn't until 1963 that new prime minister Lester B. Pearson promised Canadians that they would have a flag within two years. Officials from across Canada combed through the various ideas, including thousands of designs submitted by the public.

Suggestions included such Canadian perennials as the beaver and the fleur-de-lis, as well as lions and stars. The iconic maple leaf was unanimously adopted in December 1964, with the first flag unfurled on Parliament Hill two months later.



Though Canada is turning 150, our flag wasn't unveiled until 1965. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Poutine all day long

Ah, sweet poutine. Believed to have originated in rural Quebec in the 1950s, the tasty combo of fries, cheese curds and gravy has grown from being a staple of greasy spoons, ski resorts and hockey arenas into a gourmet dish that can sustain numerous poutine-only restaurants. Regional variations abound, such as butter-chicken poutine in Vancouver and poutine with dressing in Newfoundland. However you like it, you're enjoying a gooey scoop of Canada.

SEAN PLUMMER



ISTOCK



Today's IMAX, short for image maximum, evolved from Expo 67 in Montreal. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

To the max

"Bigger is better" sounds American, but it's the ethos of one of Canada's most amazing inventions: IMAX.

Short for "image maximum," the famous film format, which projects an image eight-stories tall, evolved from a gimmick at Expo 67 in Montreal. Today it's a way for Hollywood to make movies majestic again — think the jaw-dropping moviescapes of The Dark Knight, Star Trek and The Avengers. And speaking of jaw-dropping, the Toronto-based company's latest venture is a virtual-reality arcade launched in L.A. this past January.

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Breaking the block: Studios that *inspire* creativity

INTERIORS

Spaces should be adaptable to enable a fluid workflow

Spaces where creativity happens are utterly unlike other rooms, artists and designers say.

Whether at home or elsewhere, these deeply personal spaces often feel like they're in flux, with interiors more curated than decorated. They often feature natural objects and personal totems. They can feel messy, but also like a window into an artist's mind.

"I am always mesmerized by what goes on in these creative spaces. They are very special and often very private. The hardest part is convincing people to let you in," says Paul Barbera, who has photographed over 200 studios of both established and up-and-coming designers, architects and artists around the world.

His most recent book is Where They Create, Japan (Frame Publishers, Amsterdam). Matthew Waldman, founder of a watch company called Nooka, is one of the designers featured in the book.

I am always mesmerized by what goes on in these creative spaces. They are very special and often very private. The hardest part is convincing people to let you in. Paul Barbera, Where They Create

"I like to have a lot of stimulation in my creative space, with things to touch and look at, things that inspire me, and lots of plants," says Waldman.

Louesa Roebuck, who, with Sarah Lonsdale, wrote and photographed Foraged Flora (Ten Speed Press), featuring images and descriptions of the workplaces of various California "creatives," says "creative spaces reflect an intersection between the highly personal and professional."

The studios, ateliers and other spaces explored in these books vary widely, but many include plants or pets, quirky objects, and odd assortments of objects grouped in visual vignettes.

"A lot of the things we collect connect us to other places and times, like relics or fossils, shells, stones or bits of inspiration," Roebuck says. "My studio is full of totems."

The rooms also tend to have plenty of natural light or access to the outdoors.

"My home is very pared down but the desk in my studio area is covered in things," says Lonsdale.

"The most creative spaces seem to have the messiest desks. I love those desks. And many creative people spread things out across walls or floors. It's a way to visualize. It's work in progress."

Rachael Weiner, senior style and market editor at Real Simple magazine, says anyone can foster creativity in their home office or studio space.

"While a home is a place to foster tranquility, to relax and recharge, a creative space is the opposite. You want it to be comfortable, but you also want the energy to be dynamic," she says.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Self-taught architect Tadao Ando working at his desk in Osaka. This photographed is featured in Paul Barbera's book Where They Create, Japan from Frame Publishers and explores creatives' studios and workplaces. PAUL BARBERA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Top left: Artist Takahashi Kiroko in her Tokyo studio. Top right: Artist Mariko Mori in her Tokyo tea room, where she does a lot of thinking. Bottom: Monotype studies by Louesa Roebuck in her Ojai, Calif. studio. TOP: PAUL BARBERA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS; BOTTOM: LOUESA ROEBUCK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RACHAEL WEINER'S TIPS FOR BUILDING YOUR OWN CREATIVE OASIS

Permission to be messy
"In a home you want things as orderly as possible, but in a creative space you want to give yourself permission to diversify the way you organize things," Weiner says.

"Contact lists should be in order, but you might want to make stacks of books or drawings, or spread things out as you think about them."

Fluid display space
"The more fluid the display space the better," she says.

"Consider putting up a bulletin board or gallery ledges so you can refresh what kind of work you have up depending on the projects you're working on."

Let nature in
Natural light and natural objects "connect us to the universe and stimulate the brain. If there's no outdoor space nearby, consider including plants or even a bowl of fruit. Living natural things really change the feel of a space," Weiner says.

Personal and inspirational totems
"In a creative work space, anything that creates joy or reminds you of what you love belongs there," she says.

"Favourite colours or textiles, photos from a happy family vacation or objects that bring back special memories. These help inspire."

Expand your image of work space
"Depending on the kind of work you do, a hammock chair or cushions on the floor might be a better fit than an office chair," she says.

"Unlike the home, which has to cater to everyone in it, creative space is a personal realm, filled with whatever it is — and organized in whatever way you want — that sparks your creativity."

metro SPORTS



The NFL is making plans to speed up games, including changing video replays, using a clock for PATs and trying to make TV ads less intrusive

Islanders lean on star's Stanley Cup experience

QMJHL PLAYOFFS

Pens prospect Sprong put up 59 points in just 31 games

Less than a year after being a bystander on the Pittsburgh Penguins' Stanley Cup run, Daniel Sprong is ready to be a leader on the Charlottetown Islanders' quest for a President's Cup.

The Islanders open the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League post-season on Friday night against the Baie-Comeau Drakkar. Charlottetown is coming off perhaps its finest QMJHL season ever thanks to a late-season surge fuelled largely by Sprong.

The Dutch native scored 32 goals and added 27 assists in just 31 games for the Islanders (46-18-4), who finished fourth overall and set a franchise record for wins in a season. Charlottetown won 17 of its last 21 games, including a stretch of nine-straight wins.

Sprong missed a large chunk of the season with a torn labrum suffered while on the Penguins' practice roster during their Stanley Cup victory last spring over the San Jose Sharks. Surgery on Sprong's right shoulder sidelined him for over seven months, and the winger rehabbed in Pittsburgh before returning to Charlottetown and making his season debut on Jan. 6.

Despite the setback, the 20-year-old says that he relished the opportunity to be around NHL stars such as Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin.

"It was pretty cool to see it all happen," said Sprong, who was drafted 46th overall by Pittsburgh in the 2015 NHL draft. "Unfortunately I got a tough injury but it's pretty cool to be on the ice there with the Stanley Cup."

> **We believe if we play the right way that we can go far.**
> Daniel Sprong

Sprong's return came at an opportune time for the Islanders as rivals were arming for a playoff run with major trades.

"It's the blockbuster deal that doesn't cost you anything," said Islanders head coach Jim Hulton. "You look at the other big moves in the league with Blainville going out to get Pierre-Luc Dubois but it cost them four assets and St. John going to get Julien Gauthier.

"We knew all we had to do was survive the first half and put ourselves in a good position that Daniel would be back giving us a huge boost. And he's done that and more."

The Charlottetown franchise has never made it past the second round of the post-season since being founded in 1999. A second-round exit last year against Shawinigan prompted the firing of general manager Grant Sonier with Hulton taking over as coach/GM.

Sprong, who started the 2015-16 season by scoring two goals in 18 games with the Penguins before being sent back to Charlottetown, says that he's noticed more of a winning mentality this season.

"I think the first three years were just rough. We weren't very good in all three years," Sprong said. "This year was really the year we were going to go for it and I'm just happy that the coaching staff believes in this core and believed that this team can take a run." THE CANADIAN PRESS



Daniel Sprong played 18 games for the Penguins at the beginning of the 2015-16 NHL season.
DEREK LEUNG/GETTY IMAGES

CURLING

Homan takes top spot for playoffs

Canada's Rachel Homan kept her unbeaten streak intact at the world women's curling championship on Wednesday, locking up first place in the round-robin standings in the process.

Homan (9-0) posted a 6-4 win over Sweden's Anna Hasselborg in the afternoon draw before topping Anna Kubeskova of the Czech Republic 9-3.

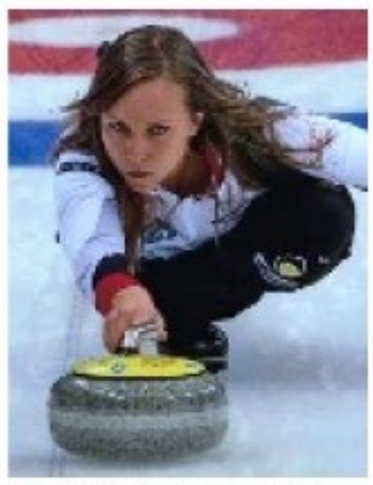
"We just keep our heads down, we work hard, and at the end of the week to be in this spot, it feels great," said Canada second Joanne Courtney. "But we still have a lot more work to do."

By clinching top spot, Homan, Courtney, vice-skip Emma Miskew and lead Lisa Weagle will carry last-rock advantage in the first end of the Page playoff 1-2 game on Friday night at the Capital Gymnasium.

Canada will close out round-robin play Thursday with tune-up games against Italy's Diana Gaspari and Denmark's Lene Nielsen.

"It feels pretty good, it's such a long week and it's nice to know now that we've got first place, we've got hammer, which we love," Miskew said. "It's a long round-robin and we're pretty excited to know that we're in that position."

Sweden rebounded after the Canada loss with a 6-5 win over South Korea's Eun Jung Kim to sit in second place at 7-2. Russia's Anna Sidorova was third at 6-3 after an 8-6 win over American Nina Roth. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Rachel Homan releases a stone against Sweden at the world championship in Beijing on Wednesday.
NG HAN GUAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Canada ties Scotland in men's soccer friendly

Canada tied Scotland 1-1 Wednesday in a soccer friendly that will have done little to boost Scottish spirits before a key World Cup qualifier on the weekend.

At No. 67, Scotland is ranked 50 places higher than Canada, which had lost all five previous meetings between the two.

Fraser Aird opened the scoring for Canada before a sparse Edinburgh, Scotland, crowd and Steven Naismith replied in the 35th minute.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

USA Hockey postpones women's training camp

USA Hockey has postponed the start of the women's national team's world championship training camp amid an ongoing wage dispute.

USA Hockey said the camp originally scheduled to begin Wednesday in Traverse City, Mich., won't happen. The organization "anticipates" a training camp in Plymouth, Mich., site of the upcoming women's world championship, which begins March 31.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NCAA BASKETBALL

Sweet 16 teams also winning in class

Men's and women's basketball teams in this year's Sweet 16 are graduating more players and experiencing all-time high academic success.

The programs still alive in the NCAA Tournament are enjoying the best academic success since The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport on the University of Central Florida campus has been tracking the numbers, according to a study it released Wednesday.

This year, 15 of the 16 men's teams, and all of the women's teams, that made it to the Sweet 16 have an Academic Progress Rate (APR) of 960 or better.

These programs are also graduating their players at a higher rate, with 81 per cent of the men and 100 per cent of the women holding a Graduation Success Rate (GRS) of at least 60 per cent. These numbers either equal or surpass all-time highs for this particular TIDES study, which has been in existence since 2003. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THURSDAY

MIDWEST
At Kansas City

- 1 Kansas (30-4) vs. 4 Purdue (27-4), 9:39 p.m.
- 3 Oregon (31-5) vs. 7 Michigan (26-11), 7:09 p.m.

WEST
At San Jose

- 1 Gonzaga (34-1) vs. 4 West Virginia (28-8), 7:39 p.m.
- 2 Arizona (32-4) vs. 11 Xavier (23-13), 10:09 p.m.

*All times ET

MAKE IT TONIGHT

Side-licious Roasted Broccoli



PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI



Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

We know, we know. We're trying to get you excited about your go-to side. But trust us, roasting broccoli brings out a crazy amount of flavour, with very little extra effort.

Ready in 30 minutes
Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 25 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 1 head of broccoli, cut into not-too-small florets
- 4 Tbsp olive oil
- salt and pepper
- 1 tsp lemon zest
- 2 or 3 good squeezes of lemon juice
- 1/4 to 1/3 cup grated Parmesan

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 425 degrees.

2. Wash and dry the broccoli very well. Scatter on a baking sheet. Drizzle with olive oil and sprinkle a good pinch of salt and pepper.

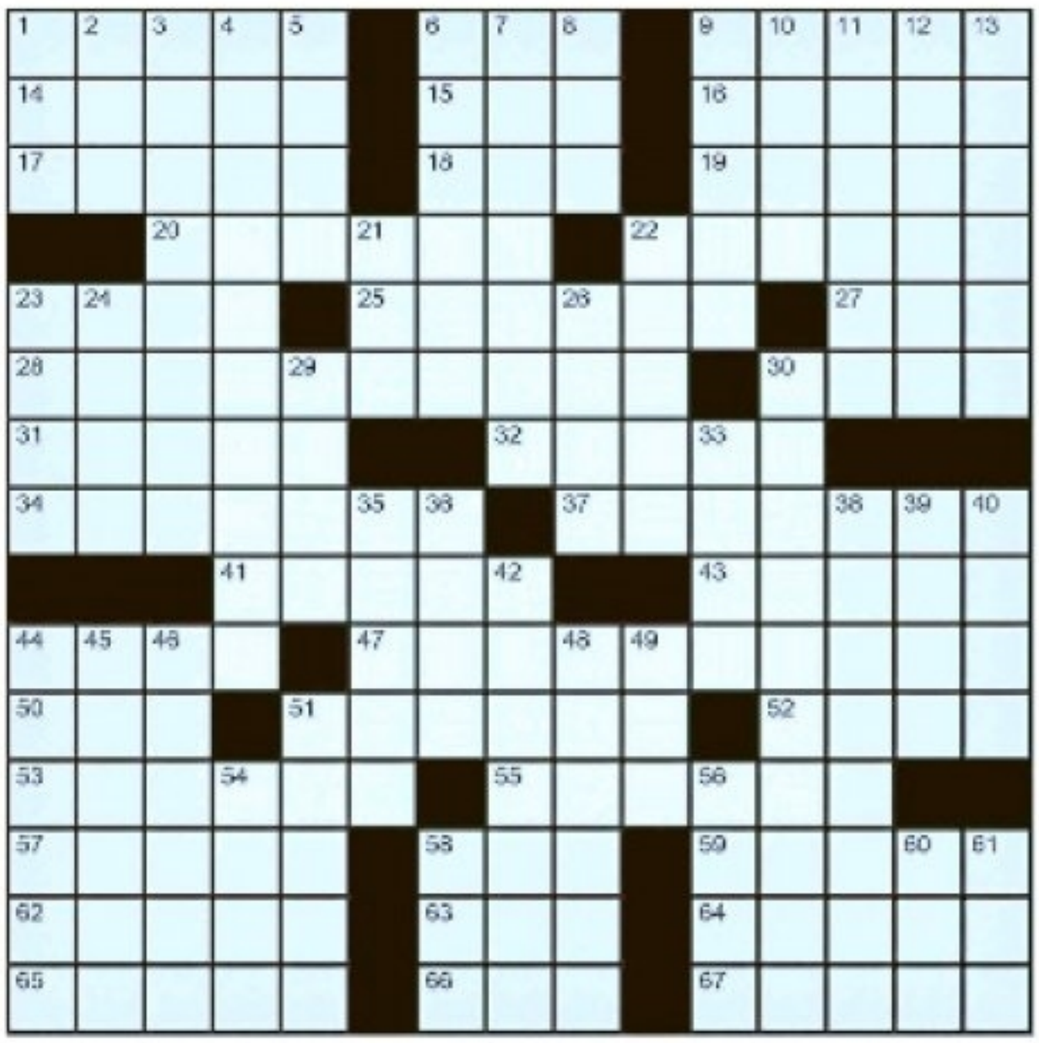
3. Pop in a hot oven for 20 to 25 minutes until the broccoli starts to char slightly at the edges

4. Remove from the oven and toss with lemon juice and zest. Transfer to your serving dish and cover with the grated cheese.
Blueberry Grunt

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Occupationally overwhelm
6. 1995 album: 'A Boy Named __'
9. Gather up
14. Son on classic sitcom "My Three Sons"
15. "State __ Main" (2000)
16. Sacred choral piece
17. Greenish-blues
18. Y's Canadian spelled-out follower
19. Go in
20. Comic strip, For __ or For Worse
22. Doesn't really know
23. Entertainment production
25. Flourish
27. Modern
28. Pembina Valley community in Manitoba approximately two hours southwest of Winnipeg: 2 wds.
30. Some Smarties
31. Burning
32. Steven Seagal movie, "Under __" (1992)
34. Identifying stock exchange symbols
37. Bridge framework
41. French writer Mr. Zola (b.1840 - d.1902)
43. Ventilated
44. Awaken
47. Nunavut: Part of Baffin Island, __ Peninsula
50. Write
51. Spoken
52. Car race, __ 500
53. Pasta brand
55. Movie shoot dailies
57. "The Love Boat" bartender
58. Tunesmith Mr. Dylan
59. Not qualified
62. 'Four'-meaning prefix
63. Rap music's Kim
64. Cake's coating
65. Ranch animal
66. Tip to 'ment' (Factor)
67. Communicates via smartphone

DOWN
1. Jiffy
2. __ humour
3. Steroid sort
4. Excavating employee
5. Fruit fly, for one
6. Summerhome's shady shelter
7. Burdensome
8. Curious
9. Make better
10. Wee weekdays
11. Make harmonious
12. Prophetic-ized, say
13. Scatters
21. Aberdeen accessory
22. "Down __" by Men At Work
23. Squabble
24. R.E.M. album: 'New Adventures in __-__'
26. Police K-9 __
29. Overbrim
30. I-was-knocked-down-but-I-got-back-up quality
33. Equipment
35. __-__-Roni (Sidedish brand est. 1958)
36. Curved musical symbol
38. Fascinate
39. Loan
40. Bandleader/pianist biopic starring Tyrone Power, "The __ Duchin Story" (1956)
42. Tangle into the trouble
44. Chops the logs for firewood
45. Red Rose service: 2 wds.
46. Intrinsic
48. Showy trinket
49. "SCTV" cast member ...his initials-sharers
51. __ of Christ aka The Pope
54. Maintenance
56. 'Eight' in Edmonton
58. Wheat, in Saguenay
60. Savings acct. rate
61. '___ with Tracy Jordan', as on "30 Rock"

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
You might be obsessed with something today. Furthermore, you might demand that you get your way. Lighten up.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
If you have to do research today, you probably will be successful. You won't stop until you find what you're looking for. You'll be like a dog with a bone.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Conversations with friends and groups will be intense today, because people are purposeful and bossy. Avoid someone if he or she is coming on too strong.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Try to be tactful during conversations with bosses and parents today, because power struggles might take place. If people disagree, they quickly will begin to argue.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Do not try to coerce others into your way of thinking, especially about politics, religion or racial issues. However, this is a good day to study something, because you have focus.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Arguments about how to divide or share something today might arise. Arguments about shared responsibilities also might be a problem. Try to avoid these arguments.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Someone might try to force his or her point of view on you today, or vice versa. This doesn't promote a happy relationship, does it?

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Because you are obsessed with something today, you can tackle a routine job and get a lot done. You also might study and learn something new at work.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Romantic partners might have trouble today, because this is not an easygoing day. People want their own way and they're not prepared to compromise. Yikes.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Because you might be obsessed with something today, you actually can use this energy and get a lot of work done.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Avoid family debates today — they will accomplish nothing. However, if you roll up your sleeves, you can do some hard work at home, especially related to bathrooms, plumbing, garbage and recycling.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Don't come on too strong when talking to others today, because you are tempted to do that. Remember: You get more flies with honey than with vinegar.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

		5		6		3		
	1						2	
2			3		8			7
		7				4		
1				5				6
		2				5		
8			1		9			4
	7						3	
		6		7		9		

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

for more fun and games go to metronews.ca/games



8	2	5	7	3	4	9	6	1
6	4	1	2	9	8	5	3	7
3	7	9	6	1	5	4	8	2
7	9	8	3	4	2	1	5	6
5	1	3	9	6	7	8	2	4
2	6	4	8	5	1	3	7	9
9	5	7	1	8	6	2	4	3
4	3	2	5	7	9	6	1	8
1	8	6	4	2	3	7	9	5



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